

CLAIMS

1. A mobile terminal comprising:
 - a controller;
 - a keypad comprising a plurality of keys, including at least one soft key coupled to the controller, the keypad being under control of the controller and having an active mode during which key inputs from the keys activate mobile terminal functions and an inactive mode during which a first type of key input from the at least one soft key to the controller does not activate the mobile terminal functions; and wherein
 - during the inactive mode, the controller is responsive to a second type of key input from at least one soft key which activates at least one mobile terminal function without return to the active mode.
2. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
 - the second type of key input is an input from one soft key.
3. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 2 wherein:
 - the second type of key input from one soft key is a single keystroke having a duration which is longer than a selected time interval.
4. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
 - the second type of key input is from one soft key which is a double keystroke from one of the keys with each keystroke having a duration less than a set time interval.

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5. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 1 comprising:
a display, under control of the controller, which displays an indicator of the inactive mode; and wherein
the activation of the at least one mobile terminal to initiate selection of a mobile terminal function during the inactive mode by the second type of key input is signalled by display of an indicator of the inactive mode and display of another indicator.
6. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 5 wherein:
the another indicator is an icon.
7. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 5 wherein:
the another indicator is text.
8. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 1 comprising:
a microphone coupled to the controller; and
the at least one mobile terminal function activated during the inactive mode is a voice activated function which is inputted by a voice input through the microphone from a user of the mobile terminal to the controller which controls outputting of the voice activated function.
9. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 1 comprising:
a microphone coupled to the controller; and
the controller, in response to a sound level sensed by the microphone, enables at least one mobile terminal function during the inactive mode.
10. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 9 wherein:
the at least one mobile terminal function activated during the inactive mode is switching the mobile terminal to an inaudible ringing.

11. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 9 wherein:
 the at least one mobile terminal function activated during the inactive mode is switching the mobile terminal to operate with a louder ringing.
12. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 1 comprising:
 a sensor, coupled to the controller, which senses reception of transmissions; and
 the controller, in response to the reception, enables a mobile terminal function during the inactive mode to activate at least one mobile terminal function.
13. A method of activating a terminal function using a mobile terminal having a controller and keypad comprising a plurality of keys, including at least one soft key coupled to the controller, the keypad under control of the controller having an active mode during which key inputs from the keys activate terminal functions and an inactive mode during which a first type of key input from the at least one soft key to the controller does not activate mobile terminal functions comprising:
 inputting a second type of key input from at least one soft key to the controller during the inactive mode which activates at least one mobile terminal function without return to the active mode.
14. A method in accordance with claim 13 wherein:
 the second type of key input is an input from one soft key.
15. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 14 wherein:
 the second type of key input from one soft key is a single keystroke having a duration which is longer than a selected time interval.

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16. A method in accordance with claim 13 wherein:
the second type of key input is from one soft key which is a double keystroke from one of the keys having a duration less than a set time interval.
17. A method in accordance with claim 13 wherein:
a display, under control of the controller, which displays an indicator of the inactive mode; and wherein
the activation of the at least one mobile terminal to initiate selection of a mobile terminal function during the inactive mode by the second type of key input is signalled by display of an indicator of the inactive mode and another indicator.
18. A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein:
the another indicator is an icon.
19. A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein:
the another indicator is text.
20. A method in accordance with claim 13 wherein:
the mobile terminal comprises a microphone coupled to the controller; and
the at least one mobile terminal function is voice activated function which is inputted by a voice input through the microphone from a user of the mobile terminal to the controller which controls outputting of the voice activated function.
21. A method in accordance with claim 13 comprising:
a microphone coupled to the controller; and
the controller, in response to a sound level sensed by the microphone, enables at least one mobile terminal function during the inactive mode.

22. A method in accordance with claim 21 wherein:

the at least one mobile terminal function activated during the inactive mode is switching the mobile terminal to an inaudible ringing.

23. A method in accordance with claim 21 wherein:

the at least one mobile terminal function activated during the inactive mode is switching the mobile terminal to operate with a louder ringing.

24. A method in accordance with claim 13 comprising:

a sensor, coupled to the controller, which senses reception of transmissions; and
the controller, in response to the reception, enables a mobile terminal function during the inactive mode to activate at least one mobile terminal function.

25. A mobile terminal comprising:

a controller;
at least one sensor which is responsive to an environmental input from an environment in which the mobile terminal is located;
a keypad comprising a plurality of keys, including at least one soft key coupled to the controller, the keypad being under control of the controller and having an active mode during which key inputs from the keys activate mobile terminal functions and an inactive mode during which a first type of key input from the at least one soft key to the controller does not activate the mobile terminal functions; and wherein
during the inactive mode, the controller is responsive to an input from the at least one sensor and a second type of key input from at least one soft key which activates at least one mobile terminal function without return to the active mode.

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26. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 25 wherein:
the second type of key input is an input from one soft key.
27. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 26 wherein:
the second type of key input from one soft key is a single keystroke having a duration which is longer than a selected time interval.
28. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 25 wherein:
the second type of key input is from one soft key which is a double keystroke from one of the keys with each keystroke having a duration less than a set time interval.
29. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 25 comprising:
a display, under control of the controller, which displays an indicator of the inactive mode; and wherein
the activation of the at least one mobile terminal to initiate selection of a mobile terminal function during the inactive mode by the second type of key input is signalled by display of an indicator of the inactive mode and display of another indicator.
30. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 25 wherein:
the another indicator is an icon.
31. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 25 wherein:
the another indicator is text.
32. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 25 wherein:
the sensor is a microphone and the input from the environment is sound.

33. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 32 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is the placing of a voice activated function originating from the mobile terminal.
34. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 32 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is changing of a ringing tone for communications being received by the mobile terminal.
35. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 32 wherein:
the sensor is receiving electronics and the input from the environment is detection of telecommunications being broadcast.
36. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 35 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is turning off the mobile terminal.
37. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 35 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is diverting communications from being broadcast to the mobile terminal to being received by another device.
38. A method of activating a terminal function using a mobile terminal having a controller, at least one sensor which is responsive to an environmental input from an environment in which the mobile terminal is located and keypad comprising a plurality of keys, including at least one soft key coupled to the controller, the keypad under control of the controller having an active mode during which key inputs from the keys activate terminal functions and an inactive mode during which a first type of key input from the at least one soft key to the controller does not activate mobile terminal functions comprising:

receiving an input from the at least one sensor and inputting a second type of key input from at least one soft key to the controller during the inactive mode which activates at least one mobile terminal function without return to the active mode.

39. A method in accordance with claim 38 wherein:

the second type of key input is an input from one soft key.

40. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 39 wherein:

the second type of key input from one soft key is a single keystroke having a duration which is longer than a selected time interval.

41. A method in accordance with claim 38 wherein:

the second type of key input is from one soft key which is a double keystroke having a duration less than a set time interval.

42. A method in accordance with claim 38 wherein:

a display, under control of the controller, which displays an indicator of the inactive mode; and wherein

the activation of the at least one mobile terminal to initiate selection of a mobile terminal function during the inactive mode by the second type of key input is signalled by display of an indicator of the inactive mode and another indicator.

43. A method in accordance with claim 42 wherein:

the another indicator is an icon.

44. A method in accordance with claim 42 wherein:

the another indicator is text.

45. A method in accordance with claim 38 wherein:
the sensor is a microphone and the input from the environment is sound.
46. A method in accordance with claim 45 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is the placing of a voice
activated function originating from the mobile terminal.
47. A method in accordance with claim 45 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is changing of a ringing tone
for communications being received by the mobile terminal.
48. A method in accordance with claim 45 wherein:
the sensor is receiving electronics and the input from the environment is detection
of telecommunications being broadcast.
49. A method in accordance with claim 48 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is turning off the mobile
terminal.
50. A method in accordance with claim 48 wherein:
the activated at least one mobile terminal function is diverting communications
from being broadcast to the mobile terminal to being received by another device.
51. A mobile terminal in accordance with claim 25 wherein:
the environmental input is location information of the mobile terminal; and
the mobile terminal function is dependent upon the location information provided
to the mobile terminal.

52. A method in accordance with claim 38 wherein:

the environmental input is location information of the mobile terminal; and

the mobile terminal function is dependent upon the location information provided to the mobile terminal.

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